

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks. Claims 1-20, as shown above, remain pending herein. Applicants have amended base claims 1, 11, 15 and 18 to clarify that the transparent area of through which the camera lens receives optical signals is a two-way transparency.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, 9-11, 13-15 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kamaya et al. (U.S. 5,537,175, hereafter "Kamaya") in view of Baumgarten (U.S. 5,940,229). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the instant claims would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art over the combination of Kamaya and Baumgarten. In particular, neither reference, nor the combination of teachings as a whole, discloses, suggests, or provides the artisan with incentive to provide a mirror having a two-way transparency.

For example, the combination of Kumaya and Baumgarten fails to disclose or suggest the above-recitation of the instant claims because Kamaya, at Fig. 19, element 40 shows a one-way mirror 41. The mirror does not have a two-way transparency, as at best it has one way transparency so that a user can see them self. Similar to Kamaya, Baumgarten also shows a mirror 36 that is arranged in front of camera 70 and lacks two-way transparency. Thus, it cannot be said that the combination of Kumaya and Baumgarten would have disclosed, suggested, or motivated the artisan at the time of

invention to provide a mirror with a two-way transparency, let alone a two-way transparency arranged in a center area of the mirror.

In contrast to the combination of Kumaya and Baumgarten, instant claim 11 recites in part that the mirror has a two-way transparent center area. Fig. 1 of the present invention, for example, shows in the enlarged view of mirror 151 that there is a small circle in the center of the image. This center area is two-way transparent, or the hole would not be visible in the mirror image of the man. Furthermore, the instant specification at page 6, lines 3-8, discloses an alternative structure that uses a "one-way" mirror in lieu of the mirror shown in Fig. 1 having a transparent center area (i.e., two-way transparency).

The presently claimed invention provides an advantage over the combination of Kumaya and Baumgarten in that one-way mirrors, when viewed from the see-through side, darken and sometimes distort the image due to the applied coatings. The need for increased lighting may very well be a requirement of using a one-way mirror. In contrast, a transparent area (two-way transparency) allows the camera lens to pick up a truer version of the image without any coating interfering with the image.

Accordingly, at least for the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that none of base claims 1, 11, 15 and 18 would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art in view of the combination of references. All of the claims dependent there from are believed to be allowable at least for their dependency on an allowable base claim, and because of an individual basis for patentability. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kamaya in view of Baumgarten and further in view of Braun (U.S. 5,532,737). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the addition of Braun to the combination of Kamaya and Baumgarten still fails even to disclose, suggest, or motivate the artisan such that any of the instant base claims would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of invention. Claim 3, therefore is believed to be allowable at least for dependence from claim 1, with claim 1 being allowable for the reasons indicated in the above-traversal. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kamaya in view of Baumgarten and further in view of Kakii (U.S. 6,137,526). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the addition of Kakii to the combination of Kamaya and Baumgarten still fails even to disclose, suggest, or motivate the artisan such that any of the instant base claims would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of invention. Claim 5 and 12, therefore are believed to be allowable at least for respective dependence from claims 1 and 11, with claims 1 and 11 believed allowable at least for the reasons indicated in the above-traversal of said claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kamaya in view of Baumgarten and further in view of Kawashima et al. (U.S. 6,079,862, hereafter "Kawashima").

Applicants respectfully submit that that the addition of Kawashima to the combination of Kamaya and Baumgarten still fails even to disclose, suggest, or motivate the artisan such that any of the instant base claims would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of invention. Claim 8, therefore is believed to be allowable at least for dependence from claim 1, as claim 1 is believed allowable for the reasons indicated in the above traversal. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

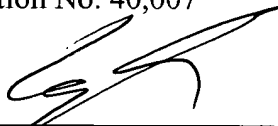
Claims 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kamaya in view of Baumgarten, as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Parulski et al. (U.S. 5,943,603, hereafter "Parulski").

Applicants respectfully submit that that the addition of Parulski to the combination of Kamaya and Baumgarten still fails even to disclose, suggest, or motivate the artisan such that any of the instant base claims would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of invention. Claims 16-17, therefore are believed to be allowable at least for dependence from claim 15, as claim 15 is believed allowable for the reasons indicated in the above traversal. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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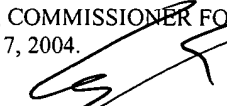
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